(d) An APO has since been issued to one of the successful bidders. The bidder has accepted the offer by submitting Purchase Bank Guarantee (PBG) with some conditions, which are under evaluation. Equipment is expected to be progressively available in about six months time from the date of acceptance of Purchase Order.

Unique software package for e-governance

1229. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to develop a unique software package for its much acclaimed e-governance;

(b) if so, the progress achieved towards that end;

(c) whether Government are considering to incorporate spreading free software developers in development of software packages;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As approved under the National e-Govemance Plan, the focus of e-governance projects is on delivery of services to citizens. Since different Departments provide different services to citizens, businesses and even Government, different applications have been developed by the concerned departments as per their requirements. Departments such as Income Tax, Custom and Excise and MCA have developed applications for their specific requirements, to name a few of the applications developed. The Government has also created a framework for the development of Standards so as to ensure better interoperability between applications of various Government Departments.

(c) to (e) Government maintains a stance of technology neutrality, platform neutrality and vendor neutrality. It has, therefore not prescribed preferential treatment of one over the other.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

1230. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of electronic telephone exchanges set up in the country particularly in the State of Assam, during the last three years, State-wise/District-wise/year-wise;

(b) the details of such telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in Assam during this period, location-wise; and

(c) the details of financial grants allocated by Government for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, details of

electronic telephone exchanges set up in the country (including the exchanges set up in Assam) by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last 3 years, State-wise, location-wise is given in the Annexure *[See* Appendix 211 Annexure No. 1]. Details of electronic telephone exchanges set up by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) in Delhi and Mumbai is given in the Statement *{See* below).

(b) All the exchanges proposed by BSNL during the last 3 years in Assam have been commissioned.

(c) Telephone exchanges are setup by BSNL and MTNL from their own resources.

Statement

Details of electronic telephone exchanges setup by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in Delhi and Mumbai

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of Exchange commissioned during the last three years		
		2004-05 Location	2005-06 Location	2006-07 Location
1	2	3	4	5
A	Mumbai			
1		Chamamurut RSU	Wilson House RSU-1	Royal Palm RSU of Goregaon 2
2		Fabrolite Marol-I RSU2	Uran RSU	Bharat Chembers
3		Fabrolite Marol-5 RSU1	Laxmi Nager RSU	Bengal Chemicals
4		Charkop-3 RSU	SBI RSU	Versova RSU
5		BKC RSLU (New)	Diva Rly. Stn RSU	Kannamwar Nagar
6		Wilson House RSU-2	River wood RSLU	Akurli (W-3)
7		Kandivli-3	Hiranandani RSU	Millenium Tower
8			Mumbra Kausa RSU	DTTC Bandra
9				Chedda Nagar
10				New Panvel
11				Byculla RDLU
12				Malbar Hill RDLU
13				Fountain RSU
14				New Belapur RSU

1	2	3	4	5
B	Delhi			
1		Pushp Vihar IV	Anand Parbat	Nil
2		Mukherjee Nagar-11		
3		Sant Nagar		
4		Jangpura		
5		Alipur - II		
6		Anand Niketan		
7		Vishu Garden		
8		Dwarka Sector 19		
9		Rohini Sector XI		
10		Khajuri Khas		
11		Punjabi Bagh East		
12		Dwarka 20		
13		Nirman Bhawan		
14		WEA Karol Bagh		

Reduction of FDI for ISPs

1231. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI recommended for reducing the FDI in Internet Service Providers from the existing limit of 100 per cent to 74 per cent;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendation;

(c) whether this recommendation has been made by TRAI in view of poor record of Internet Service Providers;

(d) whether it is also a fact that out of 700 licences issued in the last three years, not even half exist today and only 135 internet service licenses are functionally active; and

(e) if so, how his Ministry are planning to go ahead in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) TRAI in its recommendations on 'Review of Internet Services' dated 10th May 2007, has recommended a uniform FDI cap/equity of 74% across all telecom licences. TRAI has further noted that ISPs who have more than 74% FDI cap/equity at present shall be required to bring down their FDI cap/equity to 74% within two years.